Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Estate planning encourages timely decisions about the method of holding title to certain assets, the designation of beneficiaries, and the possible transfer of assets during the life of the benefactor; and,

Whereas, Many citizens are unaware that the lack of estate planning may cause their assets to be taxed at higher rates than necessary or, by default through the complex process of probate, be disposed of to unintended parties; and,

Whereas, Alternatives to disposition of assets after death, such as planned gift-giving, may accomplish a benefactor's goals and reduce the amount of an estate used to pay taxes; and,

Whereas, Careful planning can prevent family members or other beneficiaries from being subjected to complex legal and administrative processes, requiring significant expenditure of time, and greatly reduce confusion or even animosity among family members or other heirs upon the death of a loved one; and,

Whereas, The implementation of an estate plan starts with sound education and planning, and it may require the proper drafting and execution of the appropriate legal documents, including wills, trusts, and durable powers of attorney for asset management and health care; and,

Whereas, Careful financial and estate planning can greatly assist our citizens in accumulating and preserving assets built over a lifetime for the benefit of family, heirs, or charities:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 2016, as

ESTATE PLANNING AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State